

Laura Kuehn
49 Hidden Lake Road
Higganum, CT 06441
HB 5537

March 13, 2014

Dear CT PHC Testimony,

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee:

I write to ask you to strongly support and vote in the affirmative to add bill language for the modernization of the CT Naturopathic physician scope of practice to HB 5537. The language needs to be attached to this bill so it can come before the Public Health Committee for consideration. This Naturopathic scope of practice law is 90 years old and has not kept pace with the significant advances in education and training of Naturopathic doctors in the ensuing decades.

Naturopathic doctors are a huge asset to the medical community. They provide a holistic approach that breaks the constraints of the disease-diagnosis-medicate approach to medicine.

Personally, naturopathic medicine has helped me immensely. I have severe medication sensitivities. Mainstream physicians have nothing in their toolbox for people like me - if they can't prescribe medication, they are at a loss as to how to treat. Naturopathic doctors are able to think outside the box, using their advanced knowledge of how the body works as a whole and treat with gentle and often more effective interventions.

I have found naturopathic doctors to be highly knowledgeable how the various systems in the body interact than primary care physicians. They are also very passionate about their work and are well-read and up to date on current studies and breakthroughs.

Increasing their scope of practice would be a great service to patients, like me, who have come to depend upon their knowledge and expertise.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura Kuehn